SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	V
TIMOTHY STRAND,	X
Plaintiff,	
-against-	ANSWER
	08 Civ. 5273 (PAC)
METRO-NORTH RAILROAD COMPANY,	
Defendant.	X

Defendant, Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company, s/h/a Metro-North Railroad Company, (hereinafter "Metro-North"), by its attorney, Richard K. Bernard, General Counsel, as and for its answer to the complaint of the plaintiff, alleges as follows:

- 1. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph(s) 1 and 4 of the complaint and respectfully refers all questions of law and fact to judge and jury.
  - 2. Admits the allegations contained in paragraph(s) 2 of the complaint.
- 3. Denies upon information and belief each of the allegations contained in paragraph(s) 3 of the complaint and refers all questions of law and fact to judge and jury, except admit that plaintiff was employed by defendant at all relevant times.
  - 4. Denies the allegations contained in paragraph(s) 5, 6 and 7 of the complaint.

## AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

5. As and for a first affirmative defense, or as a defense in mitigation of damages, the defendant claims that any injuries allegedly sustained by the plaintiff were caused, in whole or in part, by reason of the culpable conduct of the plaintiff.

## AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

6. As and for a second affirmative defense, or as a defense in mitigation of damages, the defendant claims that the plaintiff failed to take all steps necessary and proper to mitigate damages.

WHEREFORE, defendant demands judgment dismissing the complaint, together with costs and disbursements and such other and further relief as to this Court seems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York July 14, 2008

RICHARD K. BERNARD GENERAL COUNSEL

By:\_\_S/\_

Ioana Wenchell (IW-4775) **Associate Counsel** Attorneys for Defendant 347 Madison Avenue New York, New York 10017 (212) 340-2203

TO: Michael Flynn, Esq. Law Office of Michael Flynn PLLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1205 Franklin Avenue Garden City, NY 11530 (516) 877-1234

STATE OF NEW YORK : : ss:

COUNTY OF NEW YORK:

Laura Matthews, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am not a party to the action, am over 18 years of age and reside in Bronx County, New York.

On July 14, 2008, I served a true copy of the annexed ANSWER and RULE 7.1 STATEMENT, with postage prepaid thereon, in a post-office or official depository of the U.S. Postal Service within the State of New York, addressed to the last known address of the addressee(s) as indicated below:

TO: Michael Flynn, Esq. Law Office of Michael Flynn PLLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1205 Franklin Avenue Garden City, NY 11530 (516) 877-1234

S/	
LAURA MATTHEWS	

Sworn to before me this \_14th\_\_ day of July, 2008

NOTARY PUBLIC

Strand, Timothy